

Note from Director/Associate Directors

Happy 2013, and welcome to the inaugural HRS Newsletter. We hope to keep the wide range of HRS investigators and staff up-to-date on the many activities that the HRS team is performing to keep the study at the cutting edge of survey research and social science. As we start 2013, in typical HRS fashion, we are busy designing several off-wave ancillary studies and completing the 2012 wave of data collection while at the same time planning for improvements and new scientific directions for the 2014 and 2016 waves, including linkages to new sets of data (for example, Veterans Affairs health care data), expanding genetic analyses to include recent new directions in genetic epidemiology (the exome chip and telomere length), and expanding the range of blood biomarkers to be collected from HRS respondents.

Thanks for all of your continued work and contributions to the HRS enterprise! Please let us know what types of information you'd like to see in the newsletter in future months.

David, Mary Beth, and Ken

HRS Program News

Future editions of the newsletter will feature updates from various projects within the HRS Program.

Data Products by Theresa Norgard

The HRS data processing group is currently working on a variety of projects including 2012 production data pulls. There were 19,900 cases in the most recent production data (January 7, 2013). The group is also doing a fair amount of data cleaning on the 2012 data (for example: household splits and grids for children, siblings and household members). As you might imagine, preparing these data for an Early release is a very time consuming and exhausting endeavor -- they try to get as much done in advance of the end of the field period as possible. Other projects include the HRS Tracker file, the 2013 Internet sample and preload, and the re-release of the HRS 2010 Final data.

Instrument Development by Kathy Terrazas

The instrument Development group is currently working on the biennial HRS Internet Survey which launches this April. This year we have A LOT of interesting topics -- possibly 15 sections on a variety of topics such as Internet Use, Cognition, Health and Financial Literacy and Residential History. We are wrapping up the questionnaire design phase and have just started programming and testing. Once the Internet Survey is in the field, we begin design and development activities for the next wave of the main HRS. This year we have a couple of larger endeavors to tackle -- the continuation of the Employment

and Pension section rewrite and a significant effort to cut content from our main survey -- never a fun job!

In addition to the Internet Survey, we continue our collaboration with SRO and Stats Netherland programmers as they rewrite Blaise, the survey application software we use to program the main HRS instrument. We will transition to the new software next wave (2016) and need a healthy chunk of time to plan and execute. The other big project we are working on is development of a web version of the main HRS instrument. We are in the very early stages of this effort, but since its development parallels the transition to the new Blaise 5, we have much to accomplish. This "challenge junkie" team is in seventh heaven!

SRO by Heidi Guyer

After a very challenging and lengthy wave of data collection in 2010, SRO is pleased to report that we are back on track with HRS 2012 data collection. Data collection began later than usual, April 2012, and was preceded by the largest interviewer training to date (n>240) including field staff from around the U.S. as well as local Survey Services Lab telephone interviewers. As of mid-January, an 82% response rate has been achieved (goal 88.5%) with just over 20,250 interviews (goal: 21,775). Response rates for all sub-components are on-track as well, with the exception of a lower than usual SAQ return rate. A few other interesting statistics regarding data collection:

- Over 180,000 hours spent on 2012 data collection (interviewers, team leaders, production coordinators)
- Over 70,750 hours of SRO staff spent on 2012 data collection to date
- Over 725,000 miles driven to conduct interviews- close to 30 times around the world!
- Close to 18,000 booklets and forms as well as close to 15,000 blood cards received, logged and distributed accordingly

All indicators that HRS is a strong contributor to the economy!

HRS 2012 data collection will be completed within the next few months and we are actively gearing up for the many other HRS projects to carry out in 2013.

Dissemination by Amanda Sonnega

Two major dissemination activities are underway. New staff member Paul Yuergens (see below) will begin making updates to the design and functionality the HRS website, including the participant site. A major impetus is bringing the site(s) up-to-date with mobile and tablet devices using responsive web design. We will also be working toward compliance with accessibility standards. We'll let everyone know when we have a date for going live this spring. A second edition of the Getting Started with the HRS guidebook, which utilizes screenshots of the website, will follow close on the premier of the new website. We are also working on the second databook. This edition will have a "working longer" theme. Other things cooking along...the annual respondent newsletter will be mailing in February, conference exhibitors now handing out thumb drives with useful documentation for new users and utilizing laptop for helping users, and plans for the SRC Summer Institute HRS Workshop taking shape.

Administration by Cathy Liebowitz

The HRS Administrative Support Team (AST) continues to be very busy churning proposals. We are currently projecting a high level of activity through early to mid-March.

In addition to grant seeking, HRS AST will also be working with the Center to update temporary appointments; respond to the annual space survey; prepare adjusted financial projections through the end of FY2013; continue to assist with meetings, travel and procurement; track down outstanding ISR Confidentiality Pledges; handle facilities and other special requests; assist with outreach; and, process data access requests for sensitive health data, genetic data, and restricted access data.

Thinking about all this, we could seriously give beavers or bees a run for their money in the Busy category!

HRS in the News by Amanda Sonnega

U.S. News and World Report reported on the findings of Sudipto Banerjee from the Employee Benefit Research Institute (EBRI), in an article entitled “6 Ways Spending Changes in Retirement.” The study uses CAMS and documents spending changes following retirement. Overall, the report shows that spending decreases as people age. For example, from the 2009 wave, overall household spending goes from a median of \$46,213 for age 50-64 to \$25,765 for 85 and older. The share of the budget spent on different categories changes as well.

- Home-related expenses represent 47 percent of the budget for people ages 50 to 64; then drops to 44 percent between ages 65 and 74
- Health costs are about 9 percent of costs between ages 50 and 64, doubling to 18 percent after age 85
- Transportation costs drop from 14 percent of the budget of 50- to 64-year-olds to 8 percent for those 85 and older
- The same share is spent on food (12 percent) and clothing (3 percent) after retirement as before
- Entertainment expenses account for about the same percent of the budget before retirement and in early retirement, tapering off after age 86

View the whole story <http://money.usnews.com/money/retirement/articles/2012/03/12/6-ways-spending-changes-in-retirement>.

The New York Times recently reported on a study by Yiduo Zhang, Michal Engleman, and Emily Agree published in Research on Aging in September. The study examined residential proximity of children and their aging parents. The study finds that we are not quite as geographically mobile as we once were. They found that, among people age 69 and older, the vast majority of those who live more than 10 miles from their nearest child stayed that far away over four years. Only 14 percent moved closer to their children. But it is far more likely that it is the child who moves to be closer to the aging parent.

View the whole story <http://newoldage.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/09/13/children-of-aging-parents-are-often-nearby-study-finds/>

Personnel Changes by Amanda Sonnega

After 12 years with HRS, several years with AHEAD before that, and 42 years on and off at ISR, Dave Klingel retired in December. On December 20, with Carl Sagan on the big screen in the background, we had a party to celebrate Dave's next stage. Dave's wife, Kaaren, with Theresa and Kathy below, was also there to share in the celebration. Dorothy Nordness, shown smiling with Rhonda and Gwen, returned for the party. Dave worked on many different studies over the years and shared some great stories from the early days. He invited others to do the same. Dave takes a keen interest in people and their interests. Dave most recently worked on Instrument Development for HRS, and his passion for data and eye for detail will be greatly missed. Thanks to Joy for a great party.



Paul Yuergens has joined HRS as Data Security and Information Management Specialist. Paul will work with Michael Nolte over at Michigan Square. Paul was at the medical school where he worked with the Michigan Multimedia (M3) group. He attended the University of Cincinnati College of Design, Architecture, Art, and Planning and then worked for several years at UCLA for the department of psychology. He enjoys playing piano, the Ann Arbor Track Club, yoga, and collecting vintage musical instruments, records and hi-fi tube amplifiers. As a native of Michigan, Paul is very glad to be back in the area to be able to spend time with family and friends.

Fun Stuff by Amanda Sonnega

Brooke Helpie McFall and Curt McFall welcomed their daughter Leonie Rosanna McFall on Nov 20, 2012. She weighed 9 lbs 5 ounces and was 21.5 inches long. Everybody is doing great!



Mary Beth Ofstedal's Rec&Ed USTA women's tennis league team won the Ann Arbor flight (3.0 level) last summer and made it to the finals of the District Championship. Their team photo is featured in the Rec&Ed winter catalogue and on the Red&Ed website: <http://www.aaps.k12.mi.us/tennis.home/home>



Funding News by Cathy Liebowitz

Awards totaling approximately \$22.3 million were received in Calendar 2012 for the HRS Program. PI, Project Title, and Sponsor are listed below.

PI	Title	Sponsor
2012 NEW FUNDING AWARDED		
Faul, Jessica D	Contract: Healthy People 2020	Centers for Disease Control
Levy, Helen G	K01: Health Literacy and Health Disparities Among the Elderly	NIA
Levy, Helen G	Scholars in Health Policy Research Program	Robert Wood Johnson Fdn
Levy, Helen G	The Economic Impact of Michigan's Smoke-Free Indoor Air Quality Law	State of Michigan
Nicholas, Lauren H	K01: Geographic Variation in the Health and Economic Determinants and Outcomes of Elective Surgery	NIA
Nicholas, Lauren H	Consequences of the Great Recession on Health & Health-Related Outcomes	Russell Sage Foundation
Nicholas, Lauren H	Assessing the Impact of the Medicare Advantage Bid System: Market Structure, Plan Payment and Enrollment in Medicare Advantage Plans	Commonwealth Fund
Shapiro, Matthew D	Pageonce Data Development Project	Alfred P. Sloan Foundation
Shapiro, Matthew D	Supplement to: NCRN-MN: Linking Surveys to the World: Administrative Data, the Web, and Beyond. A Michigan Node of the NSF-Census Research Network	NSF
Smith, Jacqui	Survey Measures of Subjective Well-being: Age, Appraisal, and Cognition Effects	NIA
Smith, Jacqui	R21: A Web-Based Survey of Daily Experienced Well-Being in Older Couples	NIA
Stawski, Robert S	R03: Life Events, Depression, and Cognition in Older Age: An Intraindividual Approach	NIA
Weir, David R	U01: Health and Retirement Study Yrs 23-28	NIA
2012 NON-COMPETING RENEWALS AWARDED		
Fisher, Gwenith G	R37: Extension of "Assessing and Improving Cognitive Measurement in the HRS" (NCR)	NIA
Kimball, Miles S	R01: Using the Dynamics of Happiness to Measure the Subjective Importance of Events (NCR)	NIA
Weir, David R	R01: Internet Interviewing and the HRS (NCR)	NIA
Willis, Robert J	P01: Behaviors on Surveys and in the Economy: HRS and Beyond (NCR)	NIA

Total proposals coming from the HRS program during calendar 2012 – 19, with 5 of those awarded in the same calendar year. The remaining fourteen 2012 proposals, totaling \$5.2 million, are awaiting a funding decision.

Looking ahead – we are planning about 15 proposal submissions during first quarter of Calendar 2013. This seems to be the trend!

NIA by Cathy Liebowitz

The NIA has put out recent calls for applications related to the use of HRS genetics data and determining the economic impact of Alzheimer’s disease and dementia.